THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 7-9 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

Hello, and welcome back to the *Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophecy* Reread! Today we'll be covering chapters seven, eight, and nine, in which Clay and Tsunami get their first taste of freedom. Sorry it's late.

This reread may contain SPOILERS for any and all Wings of Fire books. If you have not finished the series, read ahead at your own peril.

SUMMARY
Chapter 7: Clay says goodbye to the other dragonets and plunges into the river. He swims through the dark until he surfaces in a cave full of what he thinks are stars at first, but what turn out to be glowworms. He rests there for a while, and then moves on. He hears a waterfall as the current picks up, so he scrambles out of the river, but finds himself covered in some kind of acidic slime. In his panic, he hits his head on a rock and falls unconscious….

Chapter 8: Clay wakes up to Tsunami dunking him in the river, trying to get the poison slime off. She explains how she escaped--melting the chain with Sunny and Starflight's fire combined--and shows off her glowing scales, and then she plunges off over the waterfall. Clay freaks out, and grabs onto a spur of rock before he can go over, but Tsunami laughs at him and tells him it's only a short drop. They keep going, and then suddenly they're out of the river and in open air….

Chapter 9: Clay is dazzled at finally being outside--until he notices that only one of Tsunami's wings is working. He drops into a dive, managing to catch her and slow her fall. It turns out that she managed to dislocate her wing. Clay takes a minute to be delighted by mud, and then they try to figure out how to fix Tsunami's wing. Tsunami tries to run herself into a tree, but Clay stops her and uses his natural talent as a healer to fix it. And then they hear something moving through the forest….

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"'Thank you, Clay,' [Glory] said quietly. 'I'll never admit I said this, but...I want you to know I never would have made it through the last six years without the four of you.'" -chapter 7

I considered quoting some of Clay's reaction to being outside in chapter 9, but that would be like six paragraphs long, so I figured I'd go with the shorter quote.

THE DRAGONETS
As mentioned above, Clay's healing skills are on prominent display here. And you have to admit that his reaction to dirt and mud is absolutely adorable: "I hear the river! River plus dirt means mud!"

"The idea of Tsunami leaving them for another SeaWing with cool glowing scales made Clay feel extra-blobby and drab."

WORLDBUILDING
The waterfall the dragonets exit through seems a little weird to me. Is there any real-world precedent for an underground river becoming an open-air waterfall?

Glowworms, and acid slime. I want to know more about the acid slime. Ooh, a bat!

It's our first look at the three moons! :D

BIOLOGY AND CULTURE
Two MudWing powers on display here: healing in mud and holding breath for an hour. Likewise, the SeaWing powers of breathing underwater, seeing in the dark, causing waves with their tails, and bioluminescence.

And on that note, Webs, can we talk? Look, I know Tui probably hadn't invented Aquatic at this point, but what's your *in-world* excuse for freaking LYING TO TSUNAMI, Webs? This is not okay, Webs.

And okay, yeah, I suppose attracting partners is probably the *evolutionary* reason for SeaWings being bioluminescent (or possibly attracting prey). BUT THAT'S STILL NO EXCUSE FOR NOT TEACHING TSUNAMI AQUATIC. (Ooo, SeaWings attracting prey by glowing…)

"Some dragons carried fire within them always--a SkyWing or NightWing could blast flames anytime. SeaWings and IceWings could never breathe fire. But others, like MudWings, needed the right conditions--warmth most of all."

Wait, what about SandWings? SandWings aren't mentioned here! Do they need warmth to breathe fire?

Ohh, and that would have made Queen Moorhen's planned attack on the IceWings in TBN *especially* disastrous (even ignoring the Great Ice Cliff)--it's a really good thing Sunny talked her out of that.

I bet MudWings are better at swimming than most of the other tribes. It would make sense, living in swamps.

DRAGONSPEAK
"Stop being a grumpy SkyWing." That's...pretty much it for this chapter.

DIFFERENCES WITH LATER BOOKS
See above: Webs rant

COMMENTARY
"Tsunami suddenly spread her wings and spun to a halt, gazing up at the ceiling."

Her wing is already dislocated by this point. Ow.

"He felt like he could keep flying up and up forever, all the way to the moons. He wondered if any dragon had ever tried to do that."

Nice imagery here.

Love this:

"The ground hurtled toward him, shadows and moonlight mixed in shapes he'd never seen and couldn't understand. He had no idea how far away it was, or how soon he would reach it. He'd never dealt with distances like this before."

Once again, if anyone would like to do the annotations, that'd be great. And thank you to Fairydragon for doing them last week.

See you next week, as we meet our first scavenger--and our first queen!

Previous reread: /318113 Index: /317770

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

`Writer, roleplayer, nerd`

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

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moonsteel33

is honestly mad at Webs too

1

Sanetra

11562+ stars - Apr 2017 - Mar 2019

Life is the greatest gift. You've all helped shape mine. I can never thank you all enough. It's been so good.

Amigos
*eureka*DarkseaBearBlackberryVertigoLector*Gulfy**Caleo**Zodiak*TS
...I'm with you to the end

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cleverdragon364

Maybe Webs didn't teach Tsunami Aquatic in order to engineer some extra dependency, since she wouldn't be able to communicate with other members of her tribe in the instance that she escaped. Of course, that theory would have more standing if the other tribes showed any signs of having their own languages as opposed to one big, apparently unchanging one (if the dragons in Legends: Darkstalker are any evidence.) Then again I'm probably always going to be salty about the lack of constructed languages in high fantasy haha.

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***Clever,** A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤
[exits, pursued by a bear]
bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019

appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

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If Darkstalker didn't sound just like the modern dragons in the main series books, we could assume that *Legends* was just translated into modern English...but Darkstalker sounds just like the modern dragons. If I did my research right, English didn't *exist* 2000 years ago.

Argh. Yeah, I'll join you in the language-salt corner.

☆ 3

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fairydragon1798

Hey, Oncilla, turns out I accidentally did all the chapter seven annotations last week (I thought it was chapter 6 XD), and I saved them so I wouldn't have to write them all again, so I'll post those and do the rest later, I suppose.

☆ 0

~Fairydragon~
She/Her

We *will* never *be forgotten*
for we've all played our parts
and if the memories are erased
they'll still be in our hearts

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Okay, cool

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Chapter 7 annotations:

"When he thought about swimming into inky blackness with no idea if he'd ever breathe again, his whole body tightened with fear." ~ about Clay, when he's about to go into the underground river

Tui's annotation: "This completely terrifies me. Poor Clay!"

""...I would never have made it through the last six years without the four of you."" ~ Glory, to Clay before he enters the underground river

Tui: "This is one of my favorite things to write about - how you can make a family and get through anything as long as you have each other."

"He was still under the mountain, in a cave full of thousands of glowworms." ~ about Clay, in the under ground river

Tui: "Several years ago, I went black-water rafting in New Zealand (that's where my mom is from, so we've been there several times), at a place called Waitomo Caves. Black-water rafting sounds scarier than it is - we weren't navigating rapids in the dark or anything, but you are climbing around caves and floating down rivers far underground. I remember how scary it was to know there was all that rock over my head - but most of all I remember how beautiful the glowworm caves were. There was one really huge cave that I remember just like this - we were floating on inner tubes at this point, along a river, with glowworms all along the roof like little stars. It was really really cool...so of course I had to put it in here! "

"But he couldn't leave the river - could he?" ~ about Clay, in the underground river

Tui: "No! Don't do it, Clay!"

"His wings caught on something sticky overhead, and he felt the same sharp pain shivering through his tendons. He pulled his wings in close to his body, quickly, but the stickiness came with it and suckered onto his scales like enormous, globby leeches. It felt like the poison in Dune's tail stabbing him in a thousand places, dissolving his skin from the inside out." ~ about Clay, in the underground river

Tui: " I loosely based this cave on the Cueva de Villa Luz, otherwise known as Mexico's Poisonous Cave, which I saw on an episode of the Planet Earth documentary. I made it more dangerous for Clay because I wanted to show how many ways his journey could go horribly wrong - but also because I wanted to illustrate what happens when he gets outside and feels mud for the first time (and how important that experience is for his tribe)."

I think it's kind of interesting how Tui mentions Dune's poison. Does this mean Clay has been stabbed by Dune before? The how is he still alive? Or is Dune's poison not as strong as a normal SandWing's?

I'll do the rest tomorrow, I have to go to sleep.

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A few chapters back it mentioned "the stinging shock he got whenever Dune whacked him with his barbed tail for not paying attention." (probably quoted that wrong but close enough)

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phoenixdragon1690

poke

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Chapter 8 annotations:

"He thrashed, terrified, and the current nearly dragged him away. The other dragon yanked his head into the air and shouted, "Quit struggling! I'm saving you!"" ~ Tsunami saving Clay in the underground river

Tui: "For a little while I played around with the idea of an entirely new, stranger dragon being the one who saves Clay here (who could it be? why would she be there? where did she come from?)...but in the end I decided to keep the focus on the main five, since I already have an habit of adding new characters all over the place!"

""...I think it's trying to dissolve your scales...."" ~ Tsunami, about the sticky stuff on Clay's wings

Tui:"Yikes! I forgot I wrote that! That's super-creepy!"

"But he wasn't about to add "whining" to the list of things wrong with him." ~ Clay

Tui: "Whining is kind of my least favorite thing for heroes to do. Of course they're always tortured and dealing with lots of things on the inside, but I try to keep their outward complaining to a minimum. 😃"

""Glowing in the dark - Webs says it's to attract other SeaWings. That's how we choose our partners, or whatever."" ~ Tsunami, about SeaWings glowing in the dark

Tui: Well - this is what Tsunami THINKS anyway. Probably because that's what Webs told her, the big liar."

""It was a bat!" Tsunami excitedly slammed the river with her tail, submerging Clay in a tidal wave of water." ~ Tsunami, in the underground river with Clay

Tui: "I'm with Clay on this one - I can't imagine getting this excited over a bat!"

"He was flying!" ~ about Clay, after he exits the underground river

Tui: " YAY!"

Chapter 9 annotations:

"Everythin was *so big*." ~ about the outside of the caves, after Clay leaves the underground river

Tui: "Ths is such an important moment for Clay, finally reaching the outside after being trapped underground his whole life. Dragons live to fly - they need that space to spread out and conquer the sky - so it's really a pretty cruel thing the Talons have done, keeping this from them. The Talons don't see it that way, because they think they're keeping the dragonets safe and they're not worrying about being good parents, or even raising good children. The guardians pretty much think: "Keep them alive, and the prophecy will come true." If it were me, though, I'd want to make sure you were raising dragons who could make good choices - and who would actually want to save the world! The Talons got lucky with these five... (really, they got the most lucky because they have Clay, who took better care of the other four than the guardians ever did.)"

"...the three moons..."

Tui: "I feel like every fantasy world should have some small thing to make it clearly not our world - and that's what Phyrria's three moons are for. Although they've also come in handy for mystical prophecies and such! "

"The ground hurtled toward him, shadows and moonlight mixed in shapes he'd never seen and couldn't understand. He had no idea how far away it was, or how soon he would reach it. He'd never dealt with distances like this before."

Tui: "I think it would be pretty disorienting to go from living in caves to a whole outside world - suddenly you'd be dealing with dimensions you've never had to comprehend before, and I think that it would be so confusing for a while!"

""I bet my kind do," Clay said, ignoring her sarcasm. "I've never been this warm in my whole life." For the first time ever, his claws didn't ache, his scales didn't itch, his wings didn't feel too dry, and he wasn't worried about stubbing his talons every other step. He felt the mud squelch into the gaps between his scales and realized that the pain from the cave poison was fading, as if the mud was healing him. He sighed happily, squishing himself farther down into the damp riverbank." ~ about Clay, after he leaves the underground river and Tsunami says that she thinks most dragons don't get excited about getting dirty

Tui: "Here's another example - as a MudWing, Clay should have grown up with mud all around him; it's his natural habitat. Can you imagine being forced to grow somewhere with no sunshine? That's what it's like for him... and for all of them, because each tribe has a reason for living where they do."

"And there was a whole list of dragons who might do terrible things to the dragonets of destiny, if they ever found them."

Tui: "This is true, but has also been greatly exaggerated by the guardians so that the dragonets will be scared of everyone but them."

"Clay felt gently along her shoulder with his front talons. It was easy to find the spot where a bone had slipped out of its socket. He touched it lightly until he was sure where it was and where it needed to be." ~ Clay, fixing Tsunami's wing

Tui: "Clay, fixer of all things! "

And I won't be able to do next week's annotations, so someone else can do that, I suppose.

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